

REMARKS

Claims 13-30 are now pending in the application and are subject to a Final Rejection. With this reply, claims 13-21 are cancelled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 22-30 remain pending.

CONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Applicants believe that entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks is proper after a Final Rejection because they put the claims in an allowable condition and do not require further examination. Further and favorable consideration is urgently solicited. In the alternative, Applicants respectfully request an Advisory Action noting whether the amendments can be entered or the remarks considered at this time.

Claims 13-21

Claims 13-21 are collectively rejected as either anticipated or obvious in light of the Pedginski reference (U.S. Pat. No. 5,882,753). Applicants have cancelled the claims and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 22-30

Claims 22-30 are rejected as anticipated by the Katsuki reference (U.S. Pat. No. 4,427,743) or as obvious over the Katsuki reference and in further view of the Friedman reference (U.S. Pat. No. 6,159,608). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Applicants respectfully maintain their position that the “three layer coextruded A-B-A composite sheet” of claim 22 is not anticipated by the reference. As developed in prior prosecution, the structure disclosed in the reference is not three layer, it is not coextruded, and it is not an A-B-A composite sheet. Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's position that Katsuki's seven layer structure of Figure 2 is considered to be an A-B-A composite sheet, where the B layer is represented by Katsuki's cushioning layer 4. Applicants further acknowledge that during examination, claims are to be given their broadest possible interpretation when applying art references against them. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the structure disclosed in Katsuki and applied against the claims does not contain every limitation of the claims, even when those claims are interpreted in the broadest possible way.

First of all, the structure of Katsuki is not an A-B-A composite sheet as recited in the claims. The meaning of the claim term "composite sheet" is read in light of its description in the specification. The structure of the coextruded A-B-A composite sheet of claim 2 is described for example at paragraph [0031] and [0032]. The composite sheet has two expendable polymeric layers A co-extruded with and attached to an adhesive layer B. According to paragraph [0032] the polymeric expendable material "is an extruded sheet produced from a thermoplastic polymer or blend of polymers." The A-B-A composite sheet is suitable for use for the glazing applications described elsewhere in the specification. Paragraph [0034] states, that "in a preferred embodiment, the thickness of the expendable polymeric layer is from about 0.003 inches up to about 0.01 inch." Paragraph [0037] of the specification describes calendaring the A-B-A composite sheets on heat transfer rolls, referring to Figure 3 for an illustrative embodiment. These and other descriptions of the A-B-A coextruded sheet of claim 22 demonstrate that the claim structure has features that are not disclosed in the Katsuki reference.

Rather, the structure of Katsuki is that of a "laminated panel." At column 1, lines 15-19 in the Background section, Katsuki states:

"It has been well known that bonding of a glass sheet having superior chemical resistance and scratch resistance to a plastic sheet having light

weight and superior breaking resistance gives a laminated panel having a combination of these properties.”

Further, in the first paragraph of the Summary, Katsuki states:

“It is an object of this invention, therefore, to provide a laminated panel comprising a glass sheet, a plastic sheet and an adhesive layer for bonding these sheets, in which the generation of a residual strain between the glass sheet and the plastic sheet is reduced.”

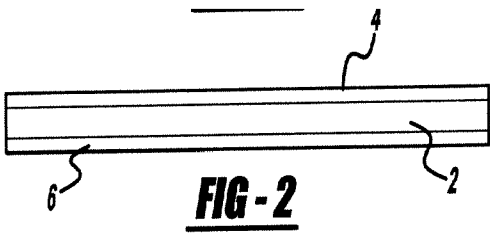
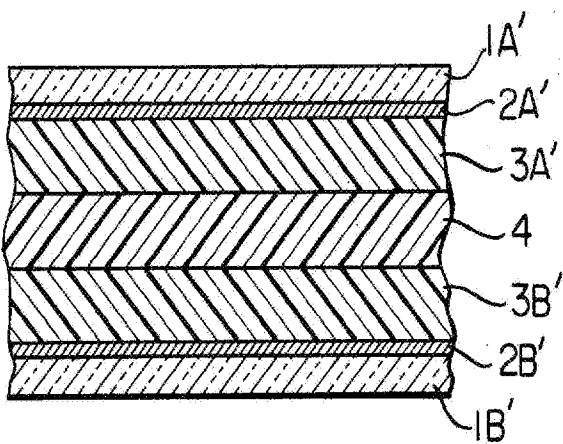
The laminated panel of Katsuki has a glass sheet and a plastic sheet with an intervening adhesive layer. None of this structure has all the features of the “A-B-A composite sheet” recited in the claims.

Second, the structure disclosed in Katsuki is not co-extruded, because the materials in the Katsuki panels are not co-extrudable. Indeed, Katsuki describes production of the laminated panel at column 7, lines 27-35:

“The laminated panel of this invention having a cushioning layer can be produced by making a material composed of a bonded structure of glass sheet/adhesive layer/plastic sheet in the above manner, and bonding it to a cushioning layer; or first making a material composed of a plastic sheet/cushioning layer/plastic sheet and bonding it to a glass sheet by an adhesive as described above; or bonding a glass sheet, and a plastic sheet by means of an adhesive and a cushioning layer.” *Emphasis added.*

The glass sheet and plastic sheet are not co-extruded together, and the cushioning layer is not co-extruded with the glass/plastic sheet.

Most strikingly, the 7-layer Katsuki structure is not a three layer composite as recited in the claims. The structures are given in the respective Figures 2 shown in the table.

<p>Claimed three layer A-B-A composite sheet</p>	<p>Katsuki laminated panel (Figure 2)</p>
<p>Paragraph [0031]: Figure 2 illustrates a 3-layer co-extruded A-B-A composite sheet where an adhesive layer 2 is co-extruded with a first polymeric expendable layer 4 and a second polymeric expendable layer 6.</p> 	<p>Column 5, lines 15-30: FIG. 2 of the accompanying drawings shows a longitudinal sectional view of another embodiment of the laminated panel of this invention. In FIG. 2, 3A' and 3B' represent plastic sheets; 2A' and 2B', adhesive layers; 1A' and 1B', glass sheets; and 4, a cushioning layer.</p> 

In Katsuki, 1A and 1A' are glass sheets; 2A and 2A' are adhesive layers, 3A and 3A' are plastic sheets, and 4 is a cushioning layer. As acknowledged by the Examiner, anticipation of the claims by Katsuki can only be arrived at if the three layer composite structure represented by 1A'/2A'/3A' and by 1B'/2B'/3B' is taken as equivalent to the expendable polymeric layer A of the claimed three layer composite sheet. Then layer 4 of Katsuki is equivalent to the adhesive layer B of the claims. With respect, this is an unreasonable interpretation of the Katsuki reference. The reference does not suggest that layers 1A/1B/1C form a "polymeric expendable layer" which "is an extruded sheet produced from a thermoplastic polymer or a blend of polymers." Instead, the layers are produced from a glass sheet, a plastic sheet, and an adhesive. And even if it were a reasonable interpretation, that interpretation does not overcome the plain fact that there are seven layers in the Katsuki

structure, while the claimed structure has three. The seven layer composite of Katsuki is manifestly not a three layer sheet as recited in the claims.

Because the reference cannot be fairly said to teach or disclose each and every limitation of the rejected claims, Applicants urge that the claims are patentable in view of the reference and respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, Applicant's believe that claims 22-30 are in an allowable condition and respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance. Consideration after final rejection is proper because the amendments and comments put the claims into an allowable condition and do not require further search or examination. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if that would be helpful to resolving any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 21, 2008

By: /Mark A. Frentrup/
Anna M. Budde
Reg. No. 35,085
Mark A. Frentrup
Reg. No. 41,026

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

AMB/MAF/cg